



December 3, 2004

All Poultry Processors

NOTICE TO THE TRADE – DECEMBER 2004

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service, Poultry Programs, and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) are approving a pilot that would allow poultry processors to substitute breast meat for skin and/or mechanically separated meat (MSM) utilizing the Standard Yield program when processing donated bulk commodities. The substitution will be based on an established ratio. This procedure is intended to increase the availability of finished poultry products that use no or limited amounts of skin and/or MSM and, subsequently, provide products with lower fat content.

The pilot will allow processors to substitute breast meat for skin and/or MSM at a ratio of 1:2 (1 pound breast meat for every 2 pounds of skin/MSM). For example: The Standard Yield equivalent for turkey skin is 3,240 pounds and 4,680 pounds of MSM. Turkey processors will be allowed to substitute 1,620 pounds of breast meat for the 3,240 pounds of skin (ratio of 1:2) and 2,340 pounds of breast meat for the 4,680 pounds of MSM (ratio of 1:2). Chicken processors will be allowed to substitute 1,800 pounds of breast meat for the 3,600 pounds of skin (ratio of 1:2) and 1,980 pounds of breast meat for the 3,960 pounds of MSM (ratio of 1:2).

To assure this pilot program achieves the desired results, Poultry Programs personnel will evaluate the pilot by assessing the nutritional value of end products delivered to recipients.

This Notice and the pilot will expire in 1 year unless it is approved for extension or permanently approved.

If you have any questions, you may contact Charles Johnson or Richard Lawson at (202) 720-4411.

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Craig A. Morris
Deputy Administrator
AMS Poultry Programs

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Cathie McCullough
Director, Food Distribution Division
Food and Nutrition Service